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Atty. Dkt. No. 016887/0999

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TC 3600 MAIL ROOM

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Nagayoshi ICHIKAWA et al.
Title: REACTOR STRUCTURAL MEMBER AND METHOD
OF SUPPRESSING CORROSION OF THE SAME
Appl. No.: 09/599,027
Filing Date: 6/22/2000
Examiner: Unassigned
Art Unit: Unassigned



INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO-1449 is a listing of documents known to Applicants in order to comply with Applicants' duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56. A copy of each listed document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicants do not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.



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**CONCISE EXPLANATION OF
RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT**

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Document A1, Japanese 7-20282, relates to a radioactive waste liquid container. The inside surface of the metal vessel is coated with two layers. The inner layer is TiO₂ and the outer layer consists of a light excitation layer. Radiation generates light in the excitation layer and a photochemical reaction occurs at the TiO₂ layer.

Document A2, Japanese 7-270592, relates to an internal structural member of a light water reactor. Structural materials of a nuclear power plant are coated with TiO₂ and/or n type semiconductors. Radiation and cherenkov light excites the semiconductor and an anodic reaction occurs.

Document A3, Japanese 8-201578, relates to an internal structural member of a light water reactor. The technique of TiO₂ coating on the structural materials is used. TiO₂ is insufflated onto the materials under reduction conditions. This method makes an oxygen-absent TiO₂ layer.

Document A4, Japanese 9-324253, relates to an anti-corrosion property improvement method for structural materials of nuclear reactor pressure vessels. TiO₂ containing 0.01 – 0.2 wt% Nb (5 valence) is used for the insufflated chemical.

Document A5, Japanese 10-90482, relates to a corrosion control method for a nuclear power plant. To coat TiO₂ on the structural material surface of a nuclear power plant, TiO₂ solution is contacted with the materials.

English translations of the Japanese language documents are not readily available; however, the absence of such translations does not relieve the PTO from its duty to consider the submitted documents (37 CFR §1.98 and MPEP §609). English language abstracts are attached to each of the Japanese language documents.

The instant Information Disclosure Statement is being filed in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(b) within three (3) months of the filing date of the above-identified application.

Applicants respectfully request that any listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO-1449 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

Respectfully submitted,

Date August 17, 2000

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By

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Schwaab', followed by the number '25479'.

Richard L. Schwaab
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